

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1 and 5; canceling claims 3, 7, and 8, and adding new claims 13-20. No new matter is added.

Claims 7 and 8 remain objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 8, thereby placing this claim and claims dependent therefrom in condition for allowance. Applicant is also adding new claim 13 to include the limitations of claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, thereby placing this claim and claims dependent therefrom in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objects to claims 9 and 10 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, if claims 9 and 10 do not further limit claim 1, the Examiner should not have deemed it necessary to rely on a *new* reference, Koa et al., to reject these claims. Second, referring to page 14 of Applicant's specification, the method of adjusting the 0.5 μ m-particle content in the film deposition system to form the carbon layer to 1000 particles/cfm can be achieved using a cloth that produces no more than 3000, 1000, or 300 particles/cfm. That is, even when a cloth that produces no more than 3000 particles/cfm is used, one can still achieve the desired 0.5 μ m-particle content. Accordingly, the Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 9 and 10.

The prior art rejections are now summarized as follows:

1. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (USP 4,816,113) and Kitsunai et al. (USP 6,186,153).
2. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki, Kitsunai et al., and newly cited Kao et al. (USP 6,026,762).

Without substantively commenting on the prior art rejections, and in order to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

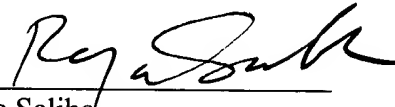
As noted above, Applicant has also added new independent claim 13 and dependent claims 14-20. Claim 13 is the same as previous claim 7 rewritten in independent form and, therefore, allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13 and are allowable at least for this reason. In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

U.S. Appln No.: 09/534,207
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Q55902

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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